pointed out last year that, under Section 46 of the Forest Regulation, there was the right of protection both of person and property against wild elephants. If a man finds that a wild elephant is going to damage his property or attack his person, there is the right of private defence under which the elephant could be killed. I would invite your attention to the provisions of this Section. I don't think that it is possible for Government to do anything more. I believe you have arms. You can use them and you can train your people to use them in the exercise of the right of private defence.

In regard to roads, you have referred to the Kottayam-Kumili road. It is one of the arterial roads of the country and we are spending a good deal of money on it. Cross drains and sharp curves are, no doubt, a serious inconvenience. I believe that, with the opening of the ropeway, a portion of the money spent on the maintenance of the road could be set free and utilised for putting up culverts and removing the curves you have referred to.

In regard to the Peermade-Devicolam road, it is true that, at the Conference referred to by you, I said, having in view the great importance of that road not only to Peermade, but also to the whole of the High Range which it would open up, that Government would pay particular attention to that road. I also said that a sum of Rs. 10,000 would be ear-marked for that road. I do not understand why the P. W. D. has not begun to execute the work and why proposals have not been made for the utilisation of the amount. I shall inquire into the matter and do the needful.

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22. Certain suggestions for the development of commerce.

Mr. E. N. Eipe (Member, Trading Classes, Kottayam) pointed out that Travancore occupied a low position in the field of trade and commerce and that the Government were not doing anything to raise it from its deplorable level in that respect. The people experienced great difficulty and inconvenience and incurred needless expenditure in the transport of goods from place to place owing to lack of adequate means of communication. The first thing to be done was that the principal trading centres of the country should be linked together by means of railways for the steady progress and expansion of trade. One line of railway should be opened from Kottarakara to Alwaye. A company with a capital of one crore of rupees might be floated, the Government taking a substantial number of shares, in which case the people would also readily come forward to purchase shares. Referring to the deputation of the Senior Assistant Account officer to study the working of the State Banks in Mysore and Baroda and to the necessity of opening a State Bank in Travancore, the Member prayed that early orders might be passed on his report. He also requested to be favoured with information as to the conditions regarding the grant of concessions to the Quilon Bank and enquired if the Government had considered whether there were no other Banks in the State superior to the Quilon Bank in the matter of paid-up capital and efficiency of management. Lastly, he prayed that agents might be appointed in important Indian centres of trade at the cost of the Government for popularising the commercial products of Travancore. Owing to the absence of agents in other countries, the goods produced here did not find a steady market in those countries.

Dewan's reply.—The extension of the railway from Kottarakara to Alwaye and the opening of a State Bank have already been dealt with in my address and in the answers given to some of the representations. The suggestion regarding the appointment of commercial agents at the chief trading centres will be considered by Government. The Director of Industries has already announced that he would act as a commercial agent, and I trust that his services would be fully utilised by the public in that capacity. He would in fact perform the duties of an information bureau. People may place their enquiries with him, and they would then get the sort of information they want.